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Urban District Council of Rishton

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
INCLUDING DETAILS OF WORK  
DONE BY THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE DISTRICT OF RISHTON FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1969



**Medical Officer of Health—**

R. C. WEBSTER,  
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**Public Health Inspector—**

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|  |      |
|--|------|
| Death Rate (crude) ... ..                          | 12.1 |
| Death Rate (adjusted) ... ..                       | 12.2 |
| Death Rate (England and Wales) ... ..              | 11.6 |
| Live Birth Rate (crude) ... ..                     | 12.8 |
| Live Birth Rate (adjusted) ... ..                  | 14.3 |
| Live Birth Rate (England and Wales) ... ..         | 16.5 |
| Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births ... ..      | 27.8 |
| Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ...  | Nil  |
| Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ... .. | 28.6 |
| Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ... | 28.6 |



There were 70 live births and 2 stillbirths registered during 1959, and 66 deaths. Both the death rate and the birth rate have fallen, the death rate from 16.0 to 12.2 and the birth rate from 17.3 to 14.3. The population has again decreased although the rate of decrease is slowing.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

This year has again seen a low incidence of reported cases of notifiable infectious diseases, with the exception of mild dysentery.

## LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Local Health and Welfare Services under the National Health and Assistance Acts are administered in Rishton by the Lancashire County Council Number 5 Health Division.

Miss E. Singleton is the Health Visitor/School Nurse for the Rishton District, and the following are the services administered at the Child Welfare and School Clinic, 108, High Street, RISHTON. Telephone No. Great Harwood 3177.

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinic | 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month (morning)   |
| 2. Child Welfare Clinic             | Each Tuesday afternoon.                      |
| 3. Minor Ailment Clinic             | Each Monday and Friday morning.              |
| 4. Immunisation Clinic              | As and when arranged.                        |
| 5. Orthopædic Clinic                | 4th Wednesday each month.                    |
| 6. Ophthalmic Clinic                | 1st and 3rd Thursday (afternoon)             |
| 7. Dental Clinic                    | Each Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (all day). |
| 8. Speech Therapy                   | By appointment.                              |
| 9. Physiotherapy                    | Each Wednesday (all day).                    |

Wherever possible appointments should be made before clinics (under headings 4 to 9) are attended, although the Dental Officer will attend to cases of toothache without appointment.

The County Midwife for Rishton is Mrs. Phillipson, 4, Devonshire Drive, CLAYTON-LE-MOORS. Telephone Accrington 31250.

The County District Nurse for the District is Mrs. Branderick. The Bungalow, Wharf Street, RISHTON.

To obtain the Ambulance Service ring Accrington 34834.

### STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

|                          |     |     |     | Total |     | Males |     | Females |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|---------|
| Live Births—Legitimate   | ... | ... | ... | 69    | .   | 30    | ... | 39      |
| Live Births—Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | 1     | ... | —     | ... | 1       |
| TOTALS                   |     |     |     | 70    |     | 30    |     | 40      |
| Stillbirths              | ... | ... | ... | 2     | ... | —     | ... | 2       |
| Deaths                   | ... | ... | ... | 66    | ... | 30    | ... | 36      |

### POPULATION FIGURES OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS

|               | Registrar General's<br>Estimated Figure |       | Births |    | Deaths |    | Births & Deaths<br>Differential |
|---------------|---|-------|--------|----|--------|----|---------------------------------|
| 1959          | ...                                     | 5,470 | ...    | 70 | ...    | 66 | + 4                             |
| 1958          | ...                                     | 5,500 | ...    | 85 | ...    | 87 | — 2                             |
| 1957          | ...                                     | 5,540 | ...    | 58 | ...    | 61 | — 3                             |
| 1956          | ...                                     | 5,580 | ...    | 77 | ...    | 80 | — 3                             |
| 1955          | ...                                     | 5,630 | ...    | 52 | ...    | 94 | — 42                            |
| 1954          | ...                                     | 5,630 | ...    | 53 | ...    | 81 | — 28                            |
| 1953          | ...                                     | 5,660 | ...    | 67 | ...    | 71 | — 4                             |
| 1952          | ...                                     | 5,741 | ...    | 59 | ...    | 86 | — 27                            |
| 1951 (Census) | ...                                     | 5,794 | ...    | 70 | ...    | 91 | — 21                            |
| 1950          | ...                                     | 5,926 | ...    | 81 | ...    | 93 | — 12                            |
| 1949          | ...                                     | 5,832 | ...    | 90 | ...    | 87 | — 3                             |

### SUMMARY CAUSES OF DEATH

|  |     |     |     | Males |     | Females |     | Total |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|---------|-----|-------|
| Tuberculosis (Respiratory)             | ... | ... | ... | —     | ... | 1       | ... | 1     |
| Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach)           | ... | ... | ... | 2     | ... | 1       | ... | 3     |
| Malignant Neoplasm (Breast)            | ... | ... | ... | —     | ... | 2       | ... | 2     |
| Other Malignant Neoplasms              | ... | ... | ... | 2     | ... | 2       | ... | 4     |
| Diabetes                               | ... | ... | ... | 1     | ... | —       | ... | 1     |
| Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System | ... | ... | ... | 3     | ... | 7       | ... | 10    |
| Coronary Disease Angina                | ... | ... | ... | 4     | ... | 4       | ... | 8     |
| Hypertension with Heart Disease        | ... | ... | ... | 1     | ... | 2       | ... | 3     |
| Other Heart Diseases                   | ... | ... | ... | 2     | ... | 3       | ... | 5     |
| Other Circulatory Diseases             | ... | ... | ... | 1     | ... | 2       | ... | 3     |
| Influenza                              | ... | ... | ... | 1     | ... | —       | ... | 1     |
| Pneumonia                              | ... | ... | ... | 3     | ... | 1       | ... | 4     |
| Bronchitis                             | ... | ... | ... | 4     | ... | 3       | ... | 7     |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases | ... | ... | ... | 3     | ... | 6       | ... | 9     |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents                | ... | ... | ... | 3     | ... | —       | ... | 3     |
| All Other Accidents                    | ... | ... | ... | —     | ... | 1       | ... | 1     |
| Suicide                                | ... | ... | ... | —     | ... | 1       | ... | 1     |
| TOTALS                                 |     |     |     | 30    |     | 36      |     | 66    |

## PUBLIC HEALTH TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS, 1930

Number of cases on Tuberculosis Register at the 31st December, 1959, compared with figures for 1958 :

|   | Pulmonary |     |       | Non-Pulmonary |     |       | Total |     |       |
|---|-----------|-----|-------|---------------|-----|-------|-------|-----|-------|
|   | M.        | F.  | Total | M.            | F.  | Total | M.    | F.  | Total |
| 1959 ...                                      | 17        | 10  | 27    | —             | 1   | 1     | 17    | 11  | 28    |
| 1958 ...                                      | 20        | 12  | 32    | 5             | 1   | 6     | 25    | 13  | 38    |
| Cases notified for first time during year ... | ...       | ... | ...   | ...           | ... | ...   | ...   | ... | —     |
| Removed from District                         | ...       | ... | ...   | ...           | ... | ...   | ...   | ... | 3     |
| Moved into District                           | ...       | ... | ...   | ...           | ... | ...   | ...   | ... | 1     |
| Diagnosis not confirmed                       | ...       | ... | ...   | ...           | ... | ...   | ...   | ... | 2     |
| Recovered                                     | ...       | ... | ...   | ...           | ... | ...   | ...   | ... | 5     |
| Died  | ...       | ... | ...   | ...           | ... | ...   | ...   | ... | 1     |

## CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

| Notifiable Diseases     | Total Cases at all ages | Age Periods—years |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |   | 25 and over | age unknown |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|-------------|-------------|
|                         |                         | 0                 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5  | 10 | 15 |   |             |             |
| Measles                 | 2                       | —                 | — | — | — | 1 | 1  | —  | —  | — | —           | —           |
| Scarlet Fever           | 3                       | —                 | — | — | — | — | 1  | 1  | 1  | — | —           | —           |
| Dysentery               | 22                      | 1                 | 1 | — | — | 3 | 9  | 4  | —  | 4 | —           | —           |
| Total cases at all ages | 27                      | 1                 | 1 | — | — | 4 | 11 | 5  | 1  | 4 | —           | —           |

Acute Poliomyelitis, both paralytic and the non-paralytic type, and Diphtheria, were absent from the notifications. This is a pleasant state of affairs, one which we hope will continue, assisted by the co-operation of parents taking advantage of the inoculations offered for their children.

| Notifiable Diseases                     | Total cases at all ages | Age Periods — years |   |    |    |   |   | 65 and over | age unknown |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|---|----|----|---|---|-------------|-------------|
|   |                         | 0                   | 5 | 15 | 45 |   |   |             |             |
| Acute Pneumonia ...<br>(Prim. and Inf.) | 7                       | —                   | 2 | 1  | 1  |   | 3 | —           | —           |
| Erysipelas                              | 1                       | —                   | — | 1  | —  | — | — | —           | —           |
| TOTALS                                  | 8                       | —                   | 2 | 2  | 1  |   | 3 | —           | —           |



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS

| Disease                    | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Scarlet Fever ... ..       | —    | 2    | —    | 7    | 3    |
| Measles ... ..             | 61   | 33   | 10   | 94   | 2    |
| Whooping Cough ... ..      | —    | 3    | 9    | 1    | —    |
| Pneumonia ... ..           | 4    | 2    | 5    | 10   | 7    |
| Food Poisoning ... ..      | —    | 3    | 2    | 1    | —    |
| Erysipelas ... ..          | —    | 1    | 1    | 2    | 1    |
| Acute Poliomyelitis ... .. | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    |
| Dysentery ... ..           | —    | —    | —    | —    | 22   |
| TOTALS ...                 | 65   | 44   | 27   | 115  | 35   |

In making my report, I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Council for their support and encouragement throughout the year, and other officials and staff for their friendly help.

Yours faithfully,

R. C. WEBSTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,

Brook Street,

RISHTON,

Near Blackburn.

Council Offices,  
Brook Street,  
RISHTON,  
Near Blackburn

*Report of the Public Health Inspector*  
**For the Year ended 31st December, 1959**



I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1959.

Smoke Abatement has again been to the fore together with Standard Grants for the improvement of dwelling houses. Standard Grants have taken up considerable time of those officials connected with them.

I am grateful to the officials and staff for the help I have received, and to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their encouragement and consideration.

Yours faithfully,

S. PILKINGTON,

Public Health Inspector.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

### Water Supply

Samples of water supply to the area have been taken with the following results :

Four samples have been taken from the public supply for bacteriological analyses and all proved satisfactory. The supplying authority also take monthly samples throughout the area, reports on which are sent to the Local Authority.

Five samples of water have been taken from private supplies, these also proved satisfactory. No private supplies completely dried up during the exceedingly dry summer, and the public supply, although on reduced pressure, maintained its supply and had not to resort to standpipes as seemed imminent at one period.

### Public Cleansing Service

I am pleased to report that the weekly cleansing service has been maintained without incident. I think it is true to say that this service is only noticable in its absence.

Spraying of weed-killer was commenced during the year, and in the future will, no doubt, contribute to the tidy appearance of the town. It is unfortunate that the whole of the township could not be sprayed in one continuous period, but as the work has to be integrated with the refuse removal only two or three hours a week are available for the weed spraying.

The tip has again been the centre of attraction for foragers, who, as a sideline to stealing from the tip itself, cause endless trouble by causing fires on the tip and by breaking into the salvage huts.

### SALVAGE

| Waste Paper |     |     |     |     | Tons | Cwts. | Qrs. | £    | s. | d. |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|------|------|----|----|
| January     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8    | 3     | 3    | 49   | 2  | 6  |
| February    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7    | 9     | 3    | 44   | 18 | 6  |
| March       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7    | 8     | 2    | 44   | 11 | 0  |
| April       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5    | 18    | 3    | 35   | 12 | 6  |
| May         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11   | 3     | 3    | 67   | 2  | 6  |
| June        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8    | 16    | 1    | 52   | 17 | 6  |
| July        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5    | 0     | 0    | 30   | 0  | 0  |
| August      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6    | 7     | 1    | 38   | 3  | 6  |
| September   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6    | 6     | 0    | 37   | 16 | 0  |
| October     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10   | 11    | 0    | 63   | 6  | 0  |
| November    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8    | 12    | 3    | 51   | 16 | 6  |
| December    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9    | 5     | 4    | 60   | 9  | 1  |
| TOTALS ...  |     |     |     |     | 95   | 3     | 3    | £575 | 15 | 7  |

| Scrap Metal     |     |     |     | Tons | Cwts. | Qrs. | Lbs. | £    | s. | d. |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|------|------|------|----|----|
| Aluminium       | ... | ... | ... | 0    | 4     | 0    | 17   | 19   | 0  | 6  |
| Brass           | ... | ... | ... | 0    | 1     | 1    | 7    | 5    | 12 | 5½ |
| Copper          | ... | ... | ... | 0    | 1     | 0    | 21   | 7    | 19 | 9½ |
| Lead            | ... | ... | ... | 0    | 1     | 3    | 25   | 4    | 3  | 1  |
| Zinc            | ... | ... | ... | 0    | 0     | 1    | 0    | 0    | 4  | 8  |
| Heavy Cast Iron | ... | ... | ... | 4    | 16    | 0    | 0    | 21   | 4  | 0  |
| Light Iron      | ... | ... | ... | 14   | 14    | 0    | 0    | 46   | 7  | 6  |
| TOTAL ...       |     |     |     |      |       |      |      | £104 | 12 | 0  |

Trade Tipping Receipts : £44 2s. 6d.

The above figures show a marked increase in the quantity of salvaged materials sold, due to all-out drive in this direction right through the cleansing department.

## FOOD

### Unsound Food

|                |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |              |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| Luncheon Meat  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 oz.       |
| Tinned Peaches | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 oz.        |
| Steak          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 260 lbs.     |
| Ham            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 58½ lbs.     |
| Peas           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15½ oz.      |
| Pineapples     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 lbs.       |
| Grapefruit     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 oz.       |
| Pears          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 lbs. 13oz. |

In all, there are 98 premises handling food for human consumption in the area. 320 visits have been paid to these premises throughout the year. Included in the total premises are 19 which are registered in relation to ice cream or cooked meat manufacture, to which a further 105 visits have been made. The food traders have, in general, been very co-operative and have maintained a good standard throughout.

## BRUCELLOSIS

Sixty-three samples of milk have been taken during the year investigating the presence of Brucellosis in a herd. Unfortunately, replacements bought for infected animals have, in some cases, been infected themselves, undoing the work done. Until a national policy is formulated, progress in eradicating Brucellosis will be very slow, if not impossible.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSE

Only four animals (cows) were slaughtered during the year, two of which showed liver infection. The premises have now converted to the wholesale manufacture of cooked meats.



## SMOKE ABATEMENT

During the year increased attention has been given to this subject. Thirty observations being made on industrial chimneys. Unfortunately, the problem of the Power Station plume is still with us, and on days when the inversion is present clean air activities are a mockery. Every effort is apparently being made to improve matters, but the remedy just does not exist at present. We can only hope that the efforts will have results in the near future, so that a clean air programme can be formulated and put into practice.

Sulphur dioxide testing apparatus distributed throughout the town show figures comparable with an industrial town, which are rather high for an urban district of this nature.

## RODENT CONTROL

The bi-annual sewer baiting has certainly reduced the rat population, which, in turn, has reduced the surface infestation, as the surface infestations are usually a spread out from the sewer by way of a broken drain. All surface infestations have received prompt attention by the rodent operator, and considerable success achieved.

## HOUSING

|  |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Houses inspected for housing defects   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 60  |
| Number of inspections made for the purpose                                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 224 |
| Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Number of dwelling houses found not in all respects fit for human habitation | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 51  |
| Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after informal action                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 49  |
| Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notice was served       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Number made fit by owners after service of formal notice                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Certificates of Unfitness applied for  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5   |
| Certificates of Unfitness granted  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4   |
| Certificates of Revocation applied for                                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Certificates of Revocation granted   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

## STANDARD GRANTS

|   |     |     |     |     |    |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Applications submitted to Local Authority | ... | ... | ... | ... | 56 |
| Approved by Local Authority               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 51 |
| Work completed                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3  |

Almost 100 per cent. of the applications have come from owner/occupied houses. Tenanted property is not being improved by use of the grant in this area.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

### Part I of the Act

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

|  | Number on<br>Register |     | Inspections |     | Written<br>notices | Occupiers<br>prosecuted |   |
|--|-----------------------|-----|-------------|-----|--------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities...                       | 1                     | ... | 5           | ... | —                  | ...                     | — |
| 2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..                    | 38                    | ... | 74          | ... | —                  | ...                     | — |
| 3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises) ... .. | —                     | ... | —           | ... | —                  | ...                     | — |
| TOTAL ... ..   | 39                    | ... | 79          | ... | —                  | ...                     | — |



